STD/PCO Booths in Assam

185. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

the details of applications for providing STD/ISD/PCO telephone booths in all the telecom circles of Assam and other States of the Country pending with the Government during the last three years and till date, district-wise/ state-wise; and

the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Provision of Phones in Villages

186. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether Government have constituted a Committee for selecting the right technology for providing the telephones in the villages of the country;

if so, the composition thereof with details, and

by what time telephones will be provided in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir. A Committee was constituted *for selecting* the right technology for providing the telephones in the villages of the country.

(b) the composition of the Committee is as under:

MOS(C)	Chairman
Secretary DTS	Member
Member(F)	Member
Member(T)	Member
Member(P)	Member
Sr. DDG(TEC)	Member
Sr. DDG(CS)	Member
DDG(RN)	Member
DDG(EF)	Member

(c) All the remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators(PBSOs).

Supply of Fibre Optic Board Based Network

187. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the Railways, Power Grid and Organisations like Enron and Reliance also plan to supply fibre optic board based network; and

if-so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The National Telecom Policy '99 envisages the usage of existing backbone network of public and private power transmission companeis/Railways/GAIL/ONGC for national long distance communications. As regards the plan to supply fibre optic board based network by organisations like Enron, Reliance, it is stated that no such reference has been received in the department for the purpose.

Printing of Postal Stamps

†188. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

the types of various postal stamps printed during the last three years;

the number of stamps printed in the security press of Government out of above;

whether some of the stamps were printed from somewhere else if so, the names thereof;

the total cost incurred on the printing of postal stamps in Government and private presses; and

whether the security press in Pune is lying closed alongwith the reasons for delay in the repairing work of the same?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.